



Korean Ladder Study Note

죄송한데요 / 저기요만으로

Short Humble Softeners Before a Favor

Level	Topic	Focus
A1 · Beginner TOPIK 1	Honorifics Humble Forms	죄송한데요 / 저기요만으로 Short Humble Softeners Before a Favor

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-006>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9ppEU9GNNs>

Visit [koreanladder.com](https://www.koreanladder.com) for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Before I ask a stranger for help, do I need to say a whole apology first?

아니에요. 길게 사과할 필요는 없어요. No, you do not need a long apology. A short, polite opener can make your request sound gentle.

So I do not need a big speech before I ask for a small favor.

오늘은 처음 보는 사람에게 부탁할 때 쓸 수 있는 짧은 표현 두 개를 볼 거예요. Today, we will learn two short expressions for opening a request to a stranger.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	죄송한데요, 사진 좀 찍어 주실 수 있어요? —	Sorry to bother you, could you take a photo for me?
Junho	네, 물론이죠. —	Yes, of course.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	감사합니다. —	Thank you.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
저기요 / 죄송한데요 jeogiyo / joesonghande-yo	Two short polite openers	오늘은 처음 보는 사람에게 부탁할 때 쓸 수 있는 짧은 표현 두 개를 볼 거예요. Today, we will learn two short expressions for opening a request to a stranger.
저기요 jeogiyo	Excuse me. Get someone's attention.	저기요는 상대의 주의를 끌 때 써요. It is like saying, "Excuse me," to get someone's attention.
죄송한데요 joesonghande-yo	Sorry to bother you, but...	죄송한데요는 부탁을 조금 더 조심스럽게 열어 줘요. It means something like, "Sorry to bother you, but," and it softly leads into your request.
하나만 골라도 돼요 —	You can choose just one.	저기요와 죄송한데요를 꼭 같이 말할 필요는 없어요. Pick the one that matches the situation.
저기요 → 주의 끌기 / 죄송한데요 → 부탁 부드럽게 —	Get attention first / soften a favor	So 저기요 is for getting attention, and 죄송한데요 is for making my favor sound gentler.
죄송한데요, joesonghande-yo,	Short Humble Softeners Before a Favor	거의 맞았어요. 죄송한데요 자체를 큰 질문처럼 올리지 않아도 돼요. Good try. It opens the request, so say 죄송한데요, then continue.
미안한데요 → 죄송한데요 —	For a stranger, choose the more polite opener.	What if I say, 미안한데요, 사진 좀 찍어 주실 수 있어요?
처음 보는 사람 → 죄송한데요 —	Stranger → 죄송한데요	처음 보는 사람에게는 미안한데요보다 죄송한데요가 더 잘 어울려요. For a stranger, 죄송한데요 sounds more polite than 미안한데요.



Grammar / Structure Notes

저기요 / 죄송한데요

저기요 / 죄송한데요 — Two short polite openers

Choose one based on what you need.

저기요 / 죄송한데요

저기요 / 죄송한데요 — Get attention / soften a request

Do not stack them automatically.

저기요

저기요 — Excuse me. Get someone's attention.

Use it before a question or request.

죄송한데요

죄송한데요 — Sorry to bother you, but...

Say it briefly, then continue with the request.

하나만 골라도 돼요

하나만 골라도 돼요 — You can choose just one.

Attention first, or a gentle favor opener.

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
죄송한데요, 여기 앉아요 돼요?	joesonghande-yo, yeogi anjado dwaeyo?
저기요	jeogiyo
죄송한데요,	joesonghande-yo
죄송한데요, 사진 좀 찍어 주실 수 있어요?	joesonghande-yo,

Self-Check

- 1 Say 죄송한데요 / 저기요만으로 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.

Related / Subsequent Studies



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
먼저 가볼게요 / 신세 졌습니다 Humble Leave-Takings After Receiving Help	A1 Honorifics: compare 먼저 가볼게요 / 신세 졌습니다 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-004
잘 받을게요 / 감사합니다하고 받기 Accepting Something Handed to You Humbly	A1 Honorifics: compare 잘 받을게요 / 감사합니다하고 받기 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-005
저요 Claiming 'That's Me' the Humble Way	A1 Honorifics: compare 저요 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-007
저한테 / 저에게 / 저를 Humbling Yourself in Particle Choice	A1 Honorifics: compare 저한테 / 저에게 / 저를 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-A1-HON-HUM-003

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.